



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Walla Walla District

News Release

News Release #08-38

Contact: Public Affairs Office

Date: May 22, 2008

Phone: (509) 527-7020

Lucky Peak staff schedules ‘rooster tail’ displays

BOISE, Idaho – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plans to discharge water this weekend through Lucky Peak Dam’s outlet structure (located adjacent to the powerhouse) to create the classic “rooster tail,” which is historically one of the area’s most popular attractions.

“We have four display times coordinated with Lucky Peak Power Plant’s (LPPP) Generation Supervisor Tom Nelson,” said Joyce Dunning, the Corps’ operations manager at Lucky Peak Dam. “The rooster tail displays are a truly unique and unusual attraction.”

The three-hour-long displays are scheduled for 4 to 7 p.m. on Friday, May 23; 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 24 and Sunday, May 25; and from 4 to 7 p.m. on Monday, May 26.

The water used to create the displays comes from flows in excess of what is needed for power generation at full capacity, Dunning added.

The “rooster tail” discharge comes through the dam’s outlet slide gates, nicknamed “flip buckets,” which send water dozens of feet into the air, creating an arch of spray into the Boise River. With the exception of routine testing, this outlet has not been operated for display since May 2006 due to lack of available water. Depending on lake surface elevations, the “rooster tail” has been observed reaching heights up to about 150 feet.

The “rooster tail” display typically attracts a large viewing audience. To get there from Boise, travel east on Interstate 84 for about 2 miles, take the state Highway 21/Gowen Road exit (Exit 57) toward Idaho City for about one-tenth of a mile, turn left onto East Gowen Road/ Highway 21 for about 6.5 miles and follow the signs to Lucky Peak Dam.

Parking areas within direct view of the powerhouse are located at Sandy Point State Park or Discovery State Park, operated by Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation. A four-dollar facility-use fee is charged by Idaho Parks and Recreation. Visitors who don’t mind walking about a quarter-mile can park for free at Foote Park, a Corps-operated facility just across the dam. Parking is limited and traffic congestion is expected. Parking will not be allowed along Highway 21, or along the access road to Sandy Point, or on top of Lucky Peak Dam.

The Corps discourages river recreation at this time because of high flow velocities and extremely cold water temperatures. Keep safety in mind – keep children and pets away from the edges of high-flowing rivers and streams, and beware of unstable riverbanks and irrigation ditches.

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NOTE: A photo of the rooster tail discharge from Lucky Peak is available for download at
http://www.nww.usace.army.mil/html/offices/pa/NR/NR08_files/NR08.htm

Public Affairs Office, Walla Walla District Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 201 N. Third Ave, Walla Walla, WA 99362-1876

Phone (509) 527-7020 FAX (509) 527-7824

Website: www.nww.usace.army.mil

E-mail: cenww-pa@usace.army.mil